

specifically hybridizes with a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; and
- (b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

under conditions of a buffer comprising 45%(v/v) formamide, 5x SSPE, at 42°C, and washing after hybridization with a buffer comprising 2xSSPE at 42°C, and that encodes a protein having the biological activity of inhibiting neurite outgrowth from dorsal root ganglion cells.

Claim 42. (Three Times Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide that specifically hybridizes with a complement of a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; and
- (b) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

under conditions of a buffer comprising 45%(v/v) formamide, 5x SSPE, at 42°C, and washing after hybridization with a buffer comprising 2xSSPE, at 42°C, and that encodes a protein having the biological activity of collapsing growth cones of retinal ganglion cells.

~~5~~ ~~Sub H1~~ Claim 48. (Three Times Amended) An expression plasmid comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 34, 41, or 42.

~~Sub F2~~ Claim 51. (Three Times Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a single-stranded polynucleotide consisting of at least 27 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:2, 4, or 10 with the proviso that said nucleic acid molecule does not consist of a polynucleotide consisting of at least 27 contiguous nucleotides disclosed in GenBank Accession No:T09073 or GenBank Accession No:R54387.

~~3~~ Claim 52. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a single-stranded polynucleotide that is complementary to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 51.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Reply.